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This month's featured image is just one aspect of the activities held in and around the Industrial Palace, home to the 2007 Prague Quadrennial. Photographer Richard Finkelstein captured a performance of *Swan Lake* held at the fountains behind the Industrial Palace. For a Prague diary giving an overview of the 2007 PQ, click [here](#). A report on the USITT Eastern European Study tour can be found [here](#). President Sylvia Pannell's commentary can be found [here](#), and don't miss [The Last Word](#).



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## Prague Quadrennial: A 2007 Exhibition Diary

**Sandy Bonds**

*VP International Activities*

*Commissioner, USITT PQ2007 USA Exhibits*

The 2007 Prague Quadrennial opened on June 14 with a gala party and fireworks show for the thousands of attendees, after the concentrated efforts from the construction teams of the 59 countries preparing the exhibits.

Arriving at the Industrial Palace only four days earlier to begin the set-up, the USITT PQ USA 2007 team found each of the three exhibits delivered to its location, ready to be set up. Exhibits Project Manager Tom Korder started the accomplished team of students from the University of Illinois on the National Exhibit the first day. Within a very short period of time, the basic structure started to take shape.



Many of the designs traveled on the panels on which they would be displayed, so the contents of the exhibit became visible as the framework was assembled. Before long, curious bystanders began to walk in and around the booth, despite the flurry of activity from the continuing construction process. By the second day, the team was divided so that half could start the Student Exhibit, left, while the others continued the assembly and detail work on the National Exhibit.

Exceptionally careful packing had preserved all of the models in the National Exhibit, and they simply needed to be dusted, right, in preparation for the display. The Architecture Exhibit was installed on the third day, leaving only the finishing touches to be accomplished on the morning of the opening. The set-up process went very smoothly, a credit to the students and team members from the Krannert Center.

Over 6,000 people had pre-registered for the Scenofest, and all were invited to the opening night. After the welcoming speeches, the long anticipation was over as buildings filled with excited spectators from around the world. The response to the USA exhibit was enthusiastic, with appreciation for both the exhibit design by Nic Ularu and Madeleine Sobota, and the curated productions representing 95 designers and 120 designs. USITT President Sylvia Hillyard Pannell described it in one word, "Gorgeous!"



The USITT Prague Quadrennial 2007 USA National Exhibit stands ready to show off the creative talent encapsulated within its structure. More than 23,000 visitors participated in the 11th quadrennial event and its accompanying activities. Additional images can be found in *The Last Word*.

Photo/Sandy Bonds

First time PQ attendee and USITT member Joe Tilford, whose designs were included in the exhibit, remarked, "This exhibit shows a generation of innovative and visionary designers at their best, and as a whole, moves American design forward. It is so important for us to support this project and to celebrate our role in the international community of artists."

Each country is invited to present a National Day reception, with a new opportunity for performances this year. The focus of the USA day was on the next generation, and students from several schools across the country joined together for an improvisation of design as performance.



After a puppet presentation by Federico Restropo, the students, dressed in white Tyvek, began adding color to their blank world with bright markers and pastel crayons. They invited the audience to join them as an opportunity to find the artist in themselves while surrounded by the art of others in the PQ exhibits. When the onlookers and performers were completely intermingled, the celebration was punctuated by the launching of metallic streamers in a final explosion of color. To carry on the outreach of friendship across the borders, each student was then encouraged to make a connection with at least two people from other countries to meet again to talk about their respective exhibits and interests in theatre design. As each National Day was presented, the cross-cultural exchange continued to occur.

Other celebrations were on the program, including the 40th anniversary parties for both OISTAT and the PQ. The Tobin Theatre Arts Fund hosted a reception for their award winners and the USITT PQ USA team at the Four Seasons Hotel. Several Tobin board members and winners are above, in front of the Prague Castle. The Scenography Commission of OISTAT provided a commemorative event for its Honorable Scenographers from around the world, presenting each winner with a plaque. Each guest received a DVD of work of all of the honored designers.



Events of Scenofest added to the richness of the daily schedule, including the Top Ten talks arranged by Pamela Howard that featured notable and unique designers from around the world including Richard Hudson of the United Kingdom, and Michael Levine of Canada. Arnold Aronson, the general commissioner for the PQ, hosted daily round table discussions about PQ topics of the past, present, and future. Scenofestees could hardly walk for more than a few feet without seeing a bird image or costume, as the theme of The Birds was omnipresent in design projects, workshops, and contributed drawings on the Bird Wall.

Laura Crow hosted a workshop on building uber-marionette birds in the tradition of international carnivals and festivals, using long poles and articulated joints to make them fly. After two days of creative activity, the parade of birds flew away from the Industrial Palace, walking to Old Town in central Prague, to the delight of onlookers. Also omnipresent were the sounds of American accents, as over 650 people from the United States registered for the Scenofest. Students and professionals alike speak with one voice when they say that the richness of the designs and programming PQ can only be experienced first hand.

USITT's International Committee, in conjunction with the Scene Design, Costume, and Technology commissions, will invite the Gold Medal winners to make presentations about their PQ exhibits at the Houston USITT Conference & Stage Expo.

#### Award Winners:

- Golden Triga for the Best Presentation of a Theme: Russia for the beautiful synthesis between the theme and the expression in one pavilion.
- Gold Medal for Best Use of Technology: Boris Kudicka, Slovakia, for his use of technology to create images of astonishing effect.
- Gold Medal for Best Realization of a Production: Johannes Schütz (scenography and costume design), Jürgen Gosch (director) for William Shakespeare's *Macbeth*, Germany.
- Gold Medal for Best Realization of a Production: Brett Bailey (designer and director), Oscar van Woensel for medEia, Republic of South Africa
- Gold Medal for Best Stage Design: Joao Mendes Ribeiro, Portugal, awarded to an architect who truly understands theatrical space.
- Gold Medal for Best Theatre Costume: costume designers from Mexico, for the vast array of approaches to adorning the human body.
- Gold Medal for Best Theatre Architecture: not awarded; Honorary Diploma to Spain for its originality and the spirit of the manifesto calling attention to theatres at risk.
- Gold Medal for Most Promising Talent in the Student Section and Scenofest: Reinis Suhanovs, Latvia, for its wit and simplicity.
- Gold Medal for the Best Exposition in the Student Section and Scenofest: Students of Latvia.

Photos, from top, Richard Finkelstein, Sandy Bonds, Sandy Bonds, Tzuen Yap

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## Officer Profile: Travis DeCastro

Barbara E.R. Lucas  
Sightlines Editor

How does someone with an undergraduate degree in musical theatre performance, singing, dancing and acting no less, and a graduate degree in directing find himself as the general manager of a theatre complex and Treasurer of USITT?

For Travis DeCastro, who became USITT's Interim Treasurer on July 1, the path included college and summer theatres and 15 years as a stage manager in New York City. While there, he worked special events for Radio City Music Hall, New York City Opera and many events on- and off-Broadway including *Cats*, *Gypsy*, *In Celebration*, *Prin*, and others.

All during that time he thought about going into teaching, and after his son was born Mr. DeCastro decided it was time to shift courses. For the past 16 years he has been head of the Stage Management Program at Pennsylvania State University and now also serves as general manager of the School of Theatre. Until about three years ago, he worked with the summer theatre program, first as production manager and then as managing director.

Although he likes the freedom of summers without specific duties, Mr. DeCastro manages to fill his time with golf, a local trivia team, finishing a new text on stage management, and his new assignment for USITT.

For Mr. DeCastro working with the finances of USITT is akin to his duties synchronizing production budgets, creating and tracking income projections, and monitoring many different aspects of his facilities. He enjoys looking at new methods, seeking what works, and tweaking what does not.

His past involvement with USITT, starting in Wichita when Elynmarie Kazle asked him to be part of the Stage Management Mentoring Program, evolved into the job of the first Special Events Coordinator for the newly-formed Annual Conference & Stage Expo Committee in Pittsburgh, and then to include a seat on the Finance Committee. He is also a Vice-Commissioner for the Management Committee and served on the USITT 40th Birthday Committee.

"My involvement has educated me," he said. "Without the strong history of those who, 10 years ago, took the bull by the horns and began a serious investment policy and financial program, we would not be in the strong position we are today," he said. He gave credit especially to Larry Hill, Bill Byrnes, Christine Kaiser, Jean Montgomery, and John Uthoff for his understanding of USITT.

Mr. DeCastro is completing the term of Mr. Hill, who resigned to pursue other volunteer interests. "Mr. Hill took an active, visible role which will be hard to follow," he noted. "We have great strengths, with USITT showing a profit and using its assets in a really beneficial way for our members," he said.

In looking at the future, Mr. DeCastro says that as a left brain/right brain person he likes "to play with technology" with one side of the brain. That encourages him to see how technology can best be utilized to enhance communication and improve efficiencies, while the other half of his brain still enjoys the art of theatre. He hopes to use both sides to benefit USITT, helping streamline processes while maintaining focus on the mission of the Institute.

He has written about his experiences with online production calendars, in "paperless" productions, and using Google's services as an information cache. He feels it is important to share what he has learned to help others better communicate.

Mr. DeCastro relates his experiences to USITT, noting he has a strong understanding of how the Conference is produced and is now learning new ways that the many aspects of the entire organization are tied together.

And those offspring, the reason he left Broadway? Mr. DeCastro is proud to note that two are in college at Penn State and a third is the high school drum major. Could there be some residual influence from the man who was once one of two male dancers in *Kismet* many years ago?



Travis DeCastro was appointed USITT's Interim Treasurer. He took office July 1, 2007.



Travis DeCastro, right, recently named USITT Treasurer, discusses a spreadsheet with James Bandoblu, Certified Public Accountant, during an early July visit to the USITT Offices in Syracuse, New York.

Photo/Barbara E.R. Lucas

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## Awards Nominations Due

USITT is accepting nominations from members for several of its highest honors. This is an important way that members can get involved in the national and international interests and mission of the Institute. Nominations will be accepted through August 15 for awards given by the Institute for distinguished achievement and outstanding service to USITT or a specific specialization.

All nominations should include the specific award for which a person or organization is being considered, a brief biography of the nominee, justification for the award, plus information on how to contact both the nominee and the person making the nomination. That information must include telephone numbers, complete mailing addresses, and e-mail addresses.

Nominations must be sent by August 15 to Dick Devin, Awards Committee Chair, at [devinr@colorado.edu](mailto:devinr@colorado.edu), or mail to Mr. Devin at 1515 7th St., Boulder, CO 80302. If you have any questions or need help with the process, e-mail [devinr@colorado.edu](mailto:devinr@colorado.edu) or call 303-931-3400.

The Committee on Awards & Resolutions, after deliberation, will vote on the award nominees and make its recommendations to the USITT Board of Directors for final action at its October meeting. Awards that the committee considers are: The USITT Award, The Joel E. Rubin Founders Award, The Thomas G. DeGaetani Award, Special Citations, and Distinguished Achievement Awards.

Refer to the USITT Membership Directory and Resource Guide or the awards portion of the USITT web site [here](#) for the names of all past honorees as well as the criteria for each award.

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## Holiday Cards Offered

The ESTA Foundation announced it will sell holiday greeting cards to benefit Behind the Scenes. Three designs are being offered -- two are by industry luminaries Eugene Lee and Tony Walton and the third by KSA Plus.

Orders for holiday cards will be taken until September 28 and will be shipped in early November. All proceeds will benefit the Behind the Scenes program. To view or order visit [www.estafoundation.org/bts/holidaycards.htm](http://www.estafoundation.org/bts/holidaycards.htm), or call 212-244-1421.

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## ETCP Updates

Several people have been recognized as certification trainers, a group of exam candidates have received certification, and an exam is scheduled in November as part of the Entertainment Technicians Certification Program (ETCP).

The ETCP Council instituted a new program for individual instructors who have met specific criteria to become ETCP Recognized Trainers. The Certification Council worked closely with leading trainers in the industry to craft a program that recognizes experienced trainers while allowing them the flexibility to adjust each class to the needs and skills of their attendees.

The following individuals have ETCP Recognized Trainer status:

**Rigging Trainers:** Harry Donovan, Jay Glerum, Jerry Gorrell, Rocky Paulson, Eddie Raymond, and Bill Sapsis

**Electrical Trainers:** Jerry Gorrell and Ken Vannice

Information about these trainers and details about the application process are available at: [www.etcp.esta.org/cert\\_recognized/trainers.htm](http://www.etcp.esta.org/cert_recognized/trainers.htm).

Twenty-eight certifications were awarded to members of IATSE Local 873. On May 12, both the Arena and Theatre Rigging exams were administered at the union hall in Toronto, Ontario, Canada. Of the certifications granted, 11 individuals hold both certifications.

Local 873 made a commitment to becoming the IATSE Local with the most certified

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ETCP

Chain Hoists

technicians in North America, and it has achieved this goal. Bob Daprato, who sits on the Executive Board of Local 873, arranged for the paper and pencil exams.

Paper and pencil administrations of any of the ETCP exams may be arranged locally for groups of 10 or more. Computer-based exams are available at 190 testing centers across the United States and Canada. For more information, contacting Meredith Moseley-Bennett, ETCP Certification Coordinator, at 212-244-1505 or [certification@esta.org](mailto:certification@esta.org).

An Entertainment Electrical Exam will be held 2 p.m. November 16, Arena Rigging 9 a.m. November 17, and Theatre Rigging 2 p.m. November 17 at LDI in Orlando, Florida.

Interested applicants must submit an application, along with supporting materials and fee, postmarked by October 1. Go to [etcp.esta.org](http://etcp.esta.org), or call or write Ms. Moseley-Bennett for more information.

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### **Chain Hoist Standards Under Review**

*BSR E1.6-2, Entertainment Technology-Serial Manufactured Electric Chain Hoists*, is available for public review through August 27. It is a continuation of the BSR E1.6 powered rigging system project, which has been split into parts dealing with different aspects of powered rigging systems and their use. This document, *BSR E1.6-2*, covers the design, inspection, and maintenance of serially manufactured electric chain hoists having capacities of two tons or less and used in the entertainment industry as part of a performance or in preparation for a performance. The public review response form and the draft standard, which is free, are available [here](#).

In addition to being asked to review the document to see if they offer adequate advice, reviewers are asked to look for protected intellectual property in the draft standards. Any protected intellectual property in the document should be pointed out in the comments.

For more information, contact: Karl G. Ruling at [standards@esta.org](mailto:standards@esta.org).

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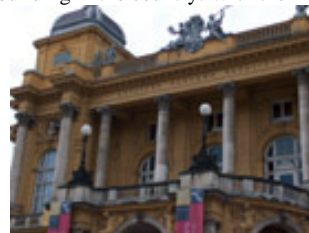
## Study Tour Visits Balkans, Prague Quadrennial

In a substantial departure from previous Prague Quadrennial tours, the USITT delegation visited the Balkan countries of Croatia, Montenegro, and Serbia before the journey to the Czech Republic for the opening of the stunning 2007 exhibition. Based on advice from USITT friend and colleague Miodrag Tabacki from Belgrade, the tour began before the summer crowds headed for the Adriatic coastline and their vacations.

The participants spent the first two weeks traveling together rather than starting with the more individualized exploration of PQ, as done in the past. Since none of this year's group had traveled to the Balkans, they enjoyed sharing the cities, islands, theatres, and museums as they learned about each other, building a closeness that carried through the entire tour.

### Zagreb

At Mr. Tabacki's suggestion, the tour began in Zagreb, the Croatian capital, primarily because the state theatre there is the finest Baroque-style building in the country. With the help of Dinka Jeri•evi•, a Croatian designer, participants were allowed to observe the final preparation for the opening of *Swan Lake*, which ended the season. The theatre was built in just 15 months in 1895, with subsequent major renovations. Like many of the Baroque theatres in Eastern Europe, the interior is stunning. [Click here](#) for an interior photo.



Guidebooks and the Internet are not particularly kind to Zagreb, but the group found it a wonderfully clean and inviting city as tour members explored the museums and churches of the Upper and Lower Town. The Gothic style cathedral is remarkable and commands a prominent place above the newer city, although little remains from the original since it was all but destroyed by one of the region's devastating earthquakes.

### Split and environs

The PQ's early June start date is partially due to the summer theatre festivals which occur all over Europe to allow designers to go to Prague before their seasons start. Unfortunately, it means Study Tours generally miss seeing theatre in any of the substantive venues. The Adriatic Coast is home to many wonderful street festivals in July and August and Split, a simply exquisite seaside resort city, was in the midst of its build cycle. Participants were able to tour the 1893 Croatian National Theatre, while they hauled a season's worth of props to

Members of USITT's 2007 Study Tour listen to information about Salona and document their visit. The tour visited many important sites before arriving in Prague for the opening of the 2007 Prague Quadrennial.

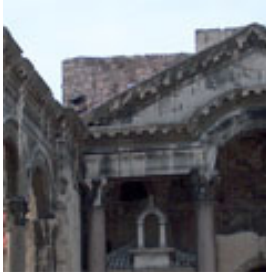
To see a larger version of any image, click on the image.

Photos/Richard Durst

by **Richard Durst**  
*Leader, USITT Study Tour*

storage.

Much of the first day was spent in the remarkable Palace of Diocletian, a third century



Roman Emperor, left, and in the adjacent Old Town. Originally, the front wall of the palace was the Adriatic Sea, but a newly opened promenade now fronts the ocean. The cellar rooms of the Palace are open for tours, starkly restored while much of the Emperor's rooms are now private apartments. His vanity led to the creation of his imposing mausoleum, now a Christian cathedral -- ironic in that his reign was marked by many Christian tortures and murders.



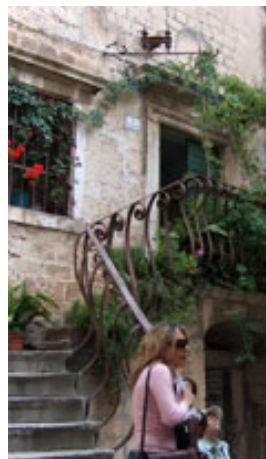
On the outskirts of Split, the group toured Salona, the northernmost Roman settlement in Croatia, and walked the grounds of the amphitheatre and ruins of the former city and cemetery, top. The original curator of the ruins took architectural pieces from the town and cemetery and incorporated them into his home and gardens, including column capitals as garden chairs, left.

The next day we traveled the environs around Split: the historic island town of Trogir (now a UNESCO World Heritage Site) at right, and the wonderful Krka National Park with its stunning waterfalls. The huge lake within the park includes an island Franciscan monastery, an hour by boat from the falls (but they did have an Internet connection for the monks!).

The group detoured back through Sibenik just to see the barrel-vaulted Cathedral of Saint Jakov, another World Heritage Site, primarily because it was built without mortar of any kind.

### Hvar

Because of necessary ferry connections, there were two consecutive early morning departures as participants visited the lovely island mecca of Hvar. This very small city is typical of Mediterranean seaports -- active harbor surrounded by islands, guarded by medieval fortresses, with steep streets and walkways. The group loved exploring the back alleys, with some of the most incredible bougainvillea.

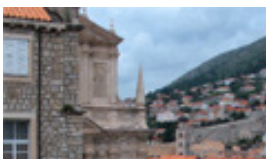


Originally, the group planned to visit the oldest Baroque theatre in Croatia, but the city has decided to rebuild the theatre entirely, so the tour wasn't possible. The original theatre was on the second floor of the Arsenal, the most wonderful Renaissance building on the Dalmatian coast, but both the floor and roof were being replaced and the city wouldn't risk even a hard-hat tour. The cultural archivist showed a digital presentation of the history and plans of the theatre for about half the group, while the costume folks toured a lace museum with three of the nuns who operate it and make the wonderful lace they sell.

Shades of Nafplio in Greece, several participants climbed the steep steps and hillside to the fortress, which provided spectacular views of the harbor and adjacent islands, right. Members visited a local winery, then crashed for an early departure for the "Pearl of the Adriatic," Dubrovnik.

### Dubrovnik

Dubrovnik is difficult to describe -- a walled city that rises out of the Adriatic with some of the most stunning views. Two-thirds of the buildings in the marvelous walled city were damaged in the war with Serbia in 1991-2, but it has been wonderfully restored with little evidence of damage except the new tiled roofs that dominate the Old Town. There were two relaxing days in the city at the beach and by the pool. In the heart of the Old Town, the group visited the City Theatre, which opened in its current configuration in 1662. The rear wall of the stage is the city wall of Dubrovnik!



Members walked the entire length of the wall that surrounds the city, left, enjoyed sidewalk cafes, did laundry, swam in the ocean, and a few even attended the symphony during a free day here. It was a relaxing end to the Croatian portion of





the tour.

Participants headed into Montenegro, via Bosnia, plagued by rain for most of two days of visiting the historic towns of Kotor and Budva. Members enjoyed both walled cities, as they meandered through twisting streets and alleys. The skies cleared long enough for all to be amazed at the medieval fortress looming over Kotor.

The exodus from the Dalmatian Coast followed the Moraca River as the group headed for Belgrade. The river canyon is the deepest in Eastern Europe and offered glorious views of the black mountains for which the country is named. There was a visit to Mileseva Monastery (right) that dates from the early 13th century, beautifully maintained by the monks.

### Serbia

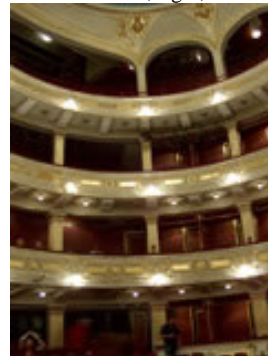
On the trip into Serbia, in order to break up a long coach ride, the group spent parts of two days in Zlatibor, a winter ski resort (the surrounding countryside is reminiscent of the high plains in the western United States), where members rode a narrow-gauge railway to a mountain top, visited a film-set village built by Serbian filmmaker Emir Kusterica, and the ended the day in a reconstructed ethnographic village-museum that showed life as it would have been in earlier mountain settlements in Serbia.



It was on to Belgrade by way of Topola, where the group visited another mausoleum decorated entirely with mosaics, then had a spectacular lunch in the "finest restaurant in all of Serbia," a hidden jewel in a tiny courtyard near this remote town.

The next morning the group met Mr. Tabacki for a tour of the National Theatre, right, watched a bit of the final dress for an opera, then squeezed in some sightseeing. The city of Belgrade has been destroyed and rebuilt more than 30 times as it sits in such a strategic position where the Danube and Sava Rivers join. The Kalemegdan Fortress was wonderful with its majestic position just above the two rivers.

Participants visited the Atelje 212 theatre, a wonderful contemporary space, and the Yugoslav Drama Theatre, perhaps the finest theatre on the entire journey. Several of the group attended an evening performance courtesy of the theatre and raved about the spectacle.



In the Study Tours over the years, groups have visited virtually every type of performance space from Greek and Roman amphitheatres to very contemporary spaces. On the way to the airport to leave for Prague, the group stopped at the Belgrade Arena, planned originally as an indoor sports arena but now being used primarily as a road-show house with 20,000 seats. The theatre consultants in the group were impressed by this Serbian-built facility, as members watched the setup of a British techno group and talked with the audio and light crew heads.

### Prague

Finally, the ultimate goal -- the Prague Quadrennial, the world's largest exhibition of theatre design and architecture, with 60 countries exhibiting the finest examples of design for the theatre. The group arrived in the late afternoon the day before the PQ opening. After some of the group went on an "unofficial" tour to the Old Town Square, various participants headed out to explore the city: the Charles Bridge, Paris Street, and Prague Castle. Every visit to Prague reinforces the belief that it is the loveliest city in Europe. At every corner there are wonderful sites, so well preserved and beautifully restored. The National Theatre building, right, is stunning and commands a position beside the Charles River.

The PQ can be daunting and many learned years ago to do the exhibits in small doses. A few of the group joined tour coordinator, Martin Klimenta, for a Sunday morning exploration of New Town in Prague including the Peter and Paul cathedral and the surrounding fortress overlooking the Vltava River.



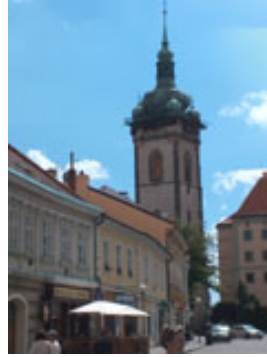
After several days of wandering the four exhibition spaces (the two national halls, the "schools" exhibit, and the central "performance" space), plus participating in workshops and meetings, the group went on a traditional excursion out of Prague, this time to Terezin. This Czech village became an internment camp for the Nazis during World War II, housing Jewish, political, and military prisoners. It was a somber reminder about inhumanity inflicted under the unforgivable guise of religious belief and

ethnic superiority.

The day was completed with a visit to yet another small historic town and its walled compound, the village of Melnick. After a lovely, serene lunch and short sightseeing walk around the square, right, participants headed back to Prague for a final dinner and next-day departure.

It was a great group of travelers, including six students on USITT scholarships, two recent graduates, two young assistant professors, and some veterans. Once again, it was a pleasure to lead the tour and be a part of the adventures -- visiting theatres, experiencing other cultures, even just being a tourist.

Stay tuned for 2009 as the Study Group will explore either Italy or Egypt.



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## USITT Promotes Carrigan

**Barbara E.R. Lucas**  
*Sightlines Editor*

USITT recently promoted Carol Carrigan to the newly created position Administrative & Finance Manager. This change of position title and job description was announced by USITT President Sylvia Hillyard Pannell. "The promotion is in support of our goal of achieving an even greater level of efficiency in serving our members," Ms. Pannell said.

Ms. Carrigan, who holds a degree from the University of South Carolina in accounting had past experience in non-profit administrative and finance management. She joined the ranks of USITT in 1998 as Finance Manager.

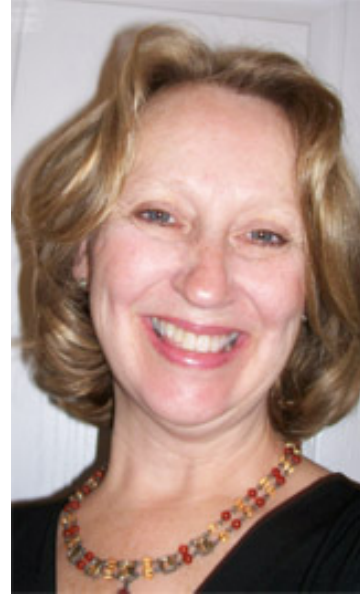
In 2004 she was named Office Coordinator. With this newly structured appointment, she continues in the role of USITT Finance Manager with the added responsibilities of office administration and leadership within the USITT National Office structure.

Owing to Ms. Carrigan's demonstrated successful administrative and leadership style, in March 2007 she received this recent promotion. The Executive Committee, acting on behalf of the Board of Directors, made the appointment. While many of her previous responsibilities as finance manager continue, Stephanie Cuny has been hired as bookkeeper to relieve Ms. Carrigan of many of the accounting duties that she previously performed. Nevertheless, Ms. Carrigan will continue to provide day-to-day oversight, monthly financial reporting, budget and audit preparation, and supervise financial management of special projects.

"The position of Administrative & Finance Management carries with it many additional responsibilities and we are very pleased that Carol has agreed to assume the new USITT staff position. We look forward to a bright future for the Institute with Ms. Carrigan in this newly created leadership role," said Ms. Pannell.

The duties of the USITT Administrative & Finance Manager include working in conjunction with and as an instrument of the Executive Committee of the Institute.

This position will ensure effective and efficient operation of the USITT office, participate in long term planning and strategies of the organization, maintain consistent methodologies and reporting mechanisms of the office operations, and sustain relations with the officers, and leadership of the organization.



Carol B. Carrigan

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## Great Discounts on Publications!

**Michelle L. Smith**  
Membership & Ad Sales Manager

Members can obtain topical and interesting industry publications at reduced prices from USITT. Check out some of our newest additions, including the 2007 Golden Pen Winner and the latest in the monograph series.

***The Performing Set: The Broadway Designs of William and Jean Eckart***  
by Andrew B. Harris

William and Jean Eckart collaborated on several new musicals that defined the 1950s and 1960s on Broadway, including *Damn Yankees* (1955), *Once Upon a Mattress* (1959) and *Mame* (1966). This book about their work contains production photographs and/or renderings for every show they did on Broadway, and includes over 500 color illustrations. This is an important record of the American theatre as well as of the work of influential designers.

The 2007 USITT Golden Pen award winner carries a member price of \$29.



USITT members can purchase the 2007 Golden Pen award winner for \$29.

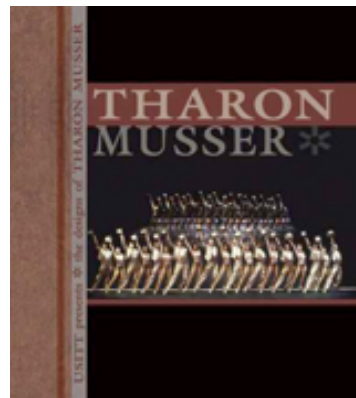
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### ***The Designs of Tharon Musser***

by Delbert Unruh, with Marilyn Rennagel and Jeff Davis

*The Designs of Tharon Musser* presents the work of one of the foremost lighting designers of the 20th century. The book contains beautiful production photographs of her most important designs, and traces the career of this widely regarded and well known theatrical lighting designer. Tharon's story is accompanied by a list of her production credits and awards and nominations.

The publication, third in the USITT Monograph Series, has a member price of \$30.



*The Designs of Tharon Musser* is the third in USITT's Monograph Series.

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[Click here](#) to visit the online store and purchase these and other terrific publications now!

Interested in having the USITT Monographs Series added to your organization's library? Click [here to download a PDF](#) order form you can pass along. To purchase any title in the bookstore by phone, call the USITT office at 800-938-7488.

Click [here](#) for a complete list of member discounts. For instructions on accessing a discount, select the item of interest and enter user name (USITT member number) and password (last name) at the prompt.

If you have questions or suggestions for a new benefit, contact Membership & Ad Sales Manager Michelle L. Smith at 800-938-7488 or [michelle@office.usitt.org](mailto:michelle@office.usitt.org).

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USITT staff members look over the blueprints for the new office space in Syracuse. The offices are being renovated to meet USITT's needs, and will bring the organization in closer proximity to Syracuse University and the Connective Corridor. From left are Monica Merritt, Jennie Owens, Carol Carrigan, Michelle Smith, and Stephanie Cuny.

Photo/Barbara E.R. Lucas

## USITT Plans Office Move

After more than ten years in a warehouse district, USITT will move its offices this fall to the center of Syracuse's art community.

Starting in September, USITT will be part of the Connective Corridor initiative of Syracuse University, a community-wide effort to link the vast array of arts and cultural happenings, businesses and neighborhoods in the City of Syracuse, New York. Both an urban design project and collaborative initiative, the Connective Corridor promotes the diverse cultural and economic assets that Syracuse has to offer.

In its new home, USITT will be within two blocks of Syracuse Stage, a LORT member, and the Syracuse University Department of Drama. The Institute's new offices are currently being renovated to accommodate staff, meeting rooms, and storage for the volunteer-based organization.

The five year lease for 315 South Crouse Avenue was approved by the Board of Directors in May. USITT's office will be on the second floor with ground-level storage and a loading dock for the more than two tons of materials that are used at each year's Annual Conference & Stage Expo.

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## Postcard from the USITT 2007 Study Tour

Our thanks to Jack Hilton Cunningham, a member of the USITT Study Tour, for this lovely postcard combining words and images to give a vivid feeling for the Prague Quadrennial, which was part of the tour. To learn more about the Study Tour, click [here](#) for an extensive report from Dick Durst. For a report on the 2007 Prague Quadrennial, click [here](#) for a report from Sandy Bonds. A full-size version of the image can be found by clicking [here](#) or clicking on the image.

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**Historic USITT Photos Needed**

The Archive Committee of the Institute has worked many long and tedious hours to get the archives ready for the Institute's upcoming 50th anniversary in 2010. Unfortunately, huge gaps in the photo records of conferences and other activities were found.

There is virtually nothing from the conferences of the 1960s, and very little from the 1970s. There are no conference photos from 1981, 1983, 1984, 1985, and 1987. Any photos from these conferences, or any Institute activities from the 1960s, 1970s, or 1980s would be greatly appreciated!

Of course, color slides, negatives, or digital formats would be the preferred types of medium. But archivists aren't picky; any donated photos (black and white or color), slides, negatives or tintypes would be greatly appreciated.

For those who do not wish to donate the originals outright, USITT will be happy to reimburse donors for reasonable duplicating costs up to \$50. Simply send the receipt along with the photos and include a stamped, self-addressed envelope for reimbursement and send to USITT Archives, 6443 Ridings Rd., Suite 134, Syracuse, NY, 13206.

Archivist Rick Stephens extends his appreciation to members who take the time to look into personal photo collections and help bring the archives up to date.

[To Top](#) ↑**Charity Riders Raise \$50,000+**

The Long Reach Long Riders are setting their fund-raising sights at high for their 4th annual ride, aiming to raise \$75,000 for the ride that begins on July 29, heading for their first stop in Syracuse, New York and a visit to the USITT and J.R. Clancy staffs.

The ride benefits two industry charities; The ESTA Foundation's Behind the Scenes program and Broadway Cares/Equity Fights AIDS. Bill Sapsis, one of the ride organizers observed, "It's great to see all the folks come back year after year and make donations. But what's even better are all the new faces this year."

Greg Williams, another organizer, noted that "The riders all pay their own way so the donations go directly to the charities."

The popular trip diary will be available on the website starting July 28th after the kickoff party. The riders are theatre technicians of one stripe or another and hail from around the country. To make a donation, join the ride or for more information please visit the [website](#).

[To Top](#) ↑**Contino Completes Autobiography**

Congratulations to Rosalie H. Contino, PhD, who recently completed and published her autobiography, *Born to Create*, through Dorrance Publishing Co., Inc. A 20-year member of USITT, Ms. Contino's book discusses her professional transition from a seventh-grade teacher to creative career as a costume designer, costume historian, playwright, and lecturer.

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Photos Needed

Long Reach Long Riders

Rosalie H. Contino



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### GAMPRODUCTS Appoints Two

Two new appointments at **GAMPRODUCTS, Inc.** Los Angeles, California, were recently announced by Joseph N. Tawil, President.

Pascal H. Zandt was named vice president of sales and marketing. Mr. Zandt came to Gamproducts a little over a year ago as national sales manager. Previously, he worked as an independent insurance sales representative for four years and in international sales and marketing in the automobile and optics industries for 14 years focusing on developing sales and distribution networks. In Mr. Zandt's first year at GAM he was instrumental in structuring a new sales representative program that added eight independent regional sales representatives.

Jacqueline Reid was appointed product training specialist. Ms. Reid completed her MFA in lighting and scenic design at Northwestern University. As a lighting designer, she has worked with Chicago theatre companies such as Victory Gardens Theatre, Apple Tree Theatre, Live Bait, and Collaboration. She has also designed productions in New York, Wisconsin, Pennsylvania, and on cruise ships. Ms. Reid has taught lighting design to students from fifth grade to college, and is a member of United Scenic Artists. She will be based in Los Angeles.

For more information visit [www.gamonline.com](http://www.gamonline.com) or call 323-935-4975.

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### ETC Ships Two Million Source Fours

**ETC's** Source Four spotlights are becoming a standard tool in performance and architectural use across the globe. The brand has reached an historic industry mark with more than two million fixtures shipped worldwide.

The Source Four family includes over ten different versions--including Source Four juniors, PARs, zooms, PARNels, MultiPAR striplights, and HIDs, as well as a moving light, the Source Four Revolution. From local theatres, houses of worship and schools, to museums, casinos, touring shows, TV studios, Broadway theatres, and opera houses, Source Fours are favored for their powerful lighting punch, precise imaging, and energy efficiency savings.

The mark is one of two milestones for the Source Four this year. In November, at LDI 2007, the brand will celebrate its 15th birthday -- 15 years since the classic spotlight was introduced to the industry at LDI 1992.

A six-month campaign celebrating the Source Four and its achievements will run until LDI 2007, and ETC invites Source Four fans worldwide to express their spirit and tell their own Source Four stories by sending in testimonial video clips. ETC will feature some clips on [www.etcconnect.com](http://www.etcconnect.com) and a select group will be unveiled on its web site during LDI 2007.

To participate, send the video clips to ETC's webmaster at [webmaster@etcconnect.com](mailto:webmaster@etcconnect.com).

ETC will accept .mov, .avi, and .mpg files. Videos also may be sent on CDs, postal mailed to PR Dept., ETC; 3031 Pleasant View Rd; PO Box 620979; Middleton, WI; United States, 53562.

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### Creative Stage Lighting at InfoComm

#### This month:

GAMPRODUCTS

ETC

Creative Stage Lighting

PRG

Rose Brand

Vari-Lite

Creative Stage Lighting geared up for InfoComm 2007 in a big way, including a drawing for three prizes at the show.

Third prize was a Tech-Alert Communication Beacon from Creative Stage Lighting with a bright directional strobe, 85db buzzer mode for noisy environments, and Clear-Com compatibility.

Second prize was a pair of W-DMX Micro units from Wireless Solution Sweden AB. The Micro, also known as the Rabbit, is a smaller, compact version of the W-DMX Blackbox receiver.

First prize was a Columbus McKinnon Prostar Hoist. The hoist is rated to lift 500 pounds up to 30 feet and is ideal for intimate venues and applications. Total value of all prizes was over \$2,500. Giveaways were possible courtesy of Columbus McKinnon and Wireless Solution Sweden AB.

For more details about the drawing and show specials, visit Creative Stage Lighting at [www.creativestagelighting.com](http://www.creativestagelighting.com).

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### **PRG Supplies SAP Event**

When it comes to supporting large-scale events, experience makes the difference. So industry-leader **PRG** was ready with all the right staff, equipment, and innovative technology solutions when tapped for software giant SAP's Sapphire 2007 Atlanta annual meeting April 22 to 25 at the Georgia World Congress Center.

"With our experience, depth of inventory and specialty products like the Series 400 Power and Data Distribution System, PRG is uniquely positioned to put a system together for a large venue like the World Congress Center," notes Martee Nuruddin, vice president, client services, at PRG Orlando.

Featuring a large keynote theatre and 17 smaller theatre spaces in addition to a trade show floor with more than 300 exhibitors, the SAP event required precise coordination of a huge volume of equipment throughout the hall.

PRG also supplied Sapphire 2007 Atlanta with 2,200 Source Four fixtures, 250 automated luminaires, 450 chain hoists and control, and 850 pieces of 10-foot 12-inch truss and control. Lighting equipment was shipped on 14 trailers from PRG's Orlando depot -- one of eight PRG depots located throughout North America.

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### **Rose Brand Launches New Website**

**Rose Brand**, the nation's largest provider of theatrical and event fabric, custom sewn drapery, and production supplies, has launched its new full-service website, RoseBrand.com. The site boasts new, intuitive product navigation featuring images and swatches for over 5,000 items.

One of Rose Brand's specialties is sewing curtains to customer specifications. RoseBrand.com allows customers to enter these specifications and receive quotes within one business day. Orders placed prior to 1 p.m. Eastern Standard Time on RoseBrand.com will ship that day with next-business-day shipping used on all other orders.

A new portfolio section provides customers with access to hundreds of high-resolution images of Rose Brand products put to use in many markets: Broadway, regional theatre, houses of worship, events, and more. The website allows customers to search for product using Rose Brand Catalog page numbers while new customers can use the Fabric Finder Wizard to determine the right fabric to suit their needs by simply entering in width, price, color, or finish requirements.

Browse the new [www.RoseBrand.com](http://www.RoseBrand.com) to see the updates.

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### **Vari-Lite Available from Creative**

**Creative Stage Lighting** has added **Vari-Lite** VL3500 Wash and VL3000 Spot fixtures to its rental inventory.

The VL3500 Wash's output exceeds 50,000 lumens and features varied options for color and beam control. The VL3000 Spot features a 6:1 zoom optics, CYM color mixing, variable CTO color temperature correction, 20,000 lumens, three gobo/effect wheels, a beam size iris, separate dimmer, and ultra-fast strobe mechanism.

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### OSRAM SYLVANIA Welcomed

USITT is pleased to have **OSRAM SYLVANIA** as a new Sustaining member of the Institute. Osram, the North American operation of OSRAM GmbH of Germany, is one of the world's leading lighting manufacturers, including lighting products, electronic and magnetic ballasts, and precision materials and components. The well-known maker of quality portable lighting devices also will exhibit at Stage Expo in 2008.

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### Stagecraft Institute Upgrades

**Stagecraft Institute of Las Vegas**, the new enterprise headed by Don Childs in Las Vegas, Nevada has upgraded its membership to the Sustaining level. The Stagecraft Institute is a private training company providing state-of-the-art training for live entertainment production personnel. It uses an extensive network of industry professionals to develop targeted training to meet specific industry needs. Stagecraft Institute recently completed its first multi-week course offering information on a wide range of stagecraft skills.

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### TMB Assists Mana's Tour

In May, Mana, Mexico's most successful rock band, launched a year-long world tour with shows planned in over 70 cities in the United States, Latin America, and Europe. The tour's first shows were in California at the San Diego Sports Arena and the Universal (Gibson) Amphitheatre in Los Angeles. The United States leg of the tour will culminate at Madison Square Garden in New York.

Pro Color, from Guadalajara, is the production contractor for the tour providing sound, lighting, and rigging. Pro Color is a sound and lighting rental company that supports Mana and other touring acts including Alejandro Fernandez and Alejandro Sanz. Pro Color gets its equipment from **TMB**.

Included in the equipment specified for the tour are four ProPower RPD power distribution racks, over 400 feet of ProSpan truss, and over 20,000 ft. of ProPlex data and ProCable power cables. For more information about TMB Professional Products, visit its website at [www.tmb.com](http://www.tmb.com).

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### TOMCAT Grids at Six Flags

Six Flags recently approached **TOMCAT USA** to provide a fixed grid system to be permanently installed at its Music Mill Amphitheatre in Six Flags over Texas. The project was completed just in time for the busy summer season and is now installed in its new home: just in front of the stage. This extra equipment is used in the *Coobri* show by Cirque Dreams, Inc. which runs June 16 through August 19 as part of the Late Nights Six Flags series.

Although the entire system is made of medium- and heavy-duty trusses, the equipment is not typical. To achieve the desired look, no guide cables were used to secure the system. Tomcat used eight 34-foot, medium duty spigoted towers with diagonals on all four faces of the truss.

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### Auerbach Collaborates on Conservatory

#### This month:

OSRAM SYLVANIA  
Stagecraft Institute of Las Vegas  
TMB  
TOMCAT USA  
Auerbach Pollock Friedlander  
Stage Technologies

**Auerbach Pollock Friedlander** collaborated with the design team of SMWM Architects on the recently opened San Francisco Conservatory of Music. The firm provided theatre consulting and sound, video, and communications consulting for the new facilities centrally located in the San Francisco Civic Center arts district.

Auerbach Pollock Friedlander's work included participating in the initial consideration of expanding the Ortega Street Campus progressing to the exploration of several adaptive-reuse venues and then a due diligence study for the War Memorial Veteran's Building and the International House. This work ultimately led to the realization of the new Oak Street home for the Conservatory.

The firm's work included planning the performance spaces and designing seating and theatrical performance systems, such as theatrical lighting, sound, stage lifts, variable acoustics elements, and orchestra riser systems for the 445-seat Concert Hall, the 135-seat Recital Hall, and the 100-seat Osher Salon. Firm members also worked on all sound video and performance communications systems for the performance spaces, studios, classrooms, and recording studio.

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### **Staff Changes at Stage Technologies**

After a successful eight months with **Stage Technologies**, Gerry Jeatt was appointed Operations Manager. Mr. Jeatt joined the company in October 2006 primarily to oversee large United Kingdom and international projects. His responsibilities have since developed and, following the company's further recent expansion, he has become increasingly involved in the manufacturing side of the business. His new position as operations manager will ensure the overall smooth running of production processes, including custom and product solutions, for all of Stage Technologies' worldwide projects.

Robert Hopkins also recently joined Stage Technologies. Mr. Hopkins will work on permanent installation projects as a System Integration Engineer. He has a strong knowledge of electromechanical automated systems and motion control from working in the theatre and entertainment industry for nearly 12 years. A graduate of Brunel University, Mr. Hopkins joined a specialist scenery design company and then worked with sports broadcasting and live entertainment industries.

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## Penguins on the Plane!

Sylvia H. Pannell  
President

Surf's up! On the Dalmatian Coast, that is.

As we set off to join the USITT Study Tour of some 35 participants (including members, spouses, friends, and eight very special student members), we boarded our Delta Airlines flight from Atlanta to Philadelphia. From the seat in front of us came the most charming and interesting gurgles, coos, and chatter imaginable. Improbable as it may seem, occupying that seat were two penguins chatting with each other, and with their handler, T. J. Dray of SeaWorld, in eager anticipation of their trip.

As The Philadelphia Inquirer reported, on June 3:  
*Animal tales*

"Penguins did indeed fly last week - commercial, though - as two Magellans from SeaWorld in Orlando, Fla., visited for an appearance Wednesday to mark a screening of the movie *Surf's Up*... These are low-maintenance penguins, says Pottstown native T.J. Dray, a marine scientist who tends to the penguins at SeaWorld. They travel with their own fish and even had a choice about taking the trip: 'I just put out the pet carrier, and whoever comes running gets to go.' After overnighting at the Radisson-Warwick Hotel - will the ice machines ever be the same? - Dray and SeaWorld aide Greg Smith drove the birds to Boston for another screening."

This was a most auspicious beginning for our adventure. If you ever wish to guarantee happy travel companions on a flight, take along some penguins. They delighted us all.

In Philadelphia the penguins toddled off to their engagement, and we joined the USITT Study Tour group at the international terminal. Some eight hours later, we arrived in Zagreb, Croatia. Upon arrival at our hotel we were met, neither officially nor intentionally, by well-known travel author and Travel Channel personality Rick Steves. He was there updating his travel advice regarding a visit to this beautiful city. Prague and Budapest are notably the most popular cities in Central Europe for foreign visitors. But there is no doubt that Zagreb, the capital of Croatia, an alluring place, will soon offer these fashionable capital cities keen competition.

Our first evening together found our troupe of travelers along with our guide, Martin Klimenta, enjoying a "opening night" dinner and toasting the upcoming adventures that we eagerly anticipated sharing.

A native of Prague and our guide for both the 2003 and 2007 PQ Study Tours, Mr. Klimenta has become integral to our well-being and good times in Prague and beyond. To date he has traveled with us to Hungary, Romania, Croatia, Montenegro, and Serbia.



Gill and Ben Philipp, right, required that hula-hoops, the Jellyfish's armature, be carefully moved from their home in Atlanta, Georgia through the Balkans so they could be used in a

As well, he generously toured us through his personal favorite haunts around Prague and shared stories of pre- and post-Velvet Revolutionary life in his beautiful hometown. When next we meet Mr. Klimenta at PQ 2011, we hope he will sport that most beloved of USITT swag -- a USITT fleece vest symbolizing his august position in our ranks. Penguins, it turns out, were not the only members of the "animal planet" that figured prominently in our journey. Jellyfish traveled with us as well.

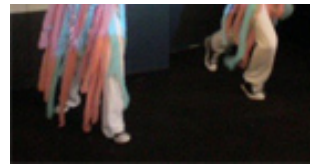
A much-heralded performance piece entitled *Jellyfish* created and performed by University of Georgia graduate students Emily



Two Magellan penguins from SeaWorld in Orlando made a special appearance in Philadelphia, but first they charmed members of the USITT Study Tour.

Photo/Michael Klein/  
Philadelphia Inquirer

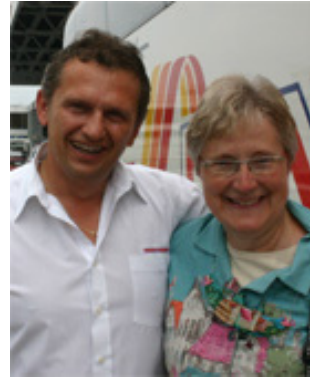
performance at the celebration of the USA National Day and at subsequent performances three times a day during PQ 2007.



Our exciting travel itinerary included much of the former Soviet Republic of Yugoslavia. Beginning in Croatia, we traveled by bus along the dazzling Adriatic Coast through the 26 kilometers granted to Bosnia and Herzegovina for access to the sea then on, by coach, to Montenegro and Serbia. For the last leg of our tour we flew from Belgrade to Prague.

Throughout our journey, we visited fabulous theatres -- historic and modern -- from vantage points including lobbies, auditoria, on-stage, back-stage, scenic and costume shops, storage areas, and in the audience.

Any reporting of the 2007 Study Tour would be remiss without the mention of our bus driver, Tibor Bede. Mr. Bede, right with Sue Kiesau, was our champion, navigating us safely from Zagreb to Belgrade through more than 500 miles of dramatic, yet chilling mountainous landscape on the challenging, often unimproved, roads that traverse the Dalmatian Coastline into crowded city streets designed without thought for cars, let alone 21st century traffic.



Together we visited cities and villages; museums, churches, monasteries, bars, restaurants, and ice cream stands. Our understanding of the drama -- the comedy and tragedy -- of the human condition deepened. Collectively, we basked in and shared the dreamy wonders, traditions, and layers of ancient and modern civilizations of the "old world."

Yet we were alone and inconsolable as each of us struggled to understand tough realities, revealed through sharply focused lenses, as we visited Terezin, a Nazi concentration camp, and saw the remains of buildings bombed during the Balkan Wars of the 1990s.

Last but certainly not least, much of the success of our trip is attributable to the good work and good cheer of tour leaders Dick and Karen Durst! With four Study Tours to their credit and promising USITT only one more, the Dursts are USITT model travelers. (For more about USITT Study Tours, look for *Traveling with USITT* by Nancy Simon in the Fall issue of *TD&T*.)

The USITT Study Tour participants visited interesting places, were inspired by stunning scenery, visited beautiful historic theatres, and met with brilliant European designers and technologists. The centerpiece of the tour was, of course, the awe-inspiring Prague Quadrennial, arguably among the finest theatrical design expositions in the world.

Notwithstanding these amazing offerings, the secret ingredient, assuring that special recipe for Study Tour insights and delights, is the Dursts' heaping serving of generosity, travel acumen, and personal charm!



Dick Durst takes a break from his duties as USITT tour director, supported ably by his wife Karen.

Photos courtesy, from top, M. Busch-Jones, S. Kiesau, B. Philipp, M. Busch-Jones

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### Southeast to Host Master Class

As Yogi Berra said, "It's déjà vu all over again."

North Carolina School of the Arts again will host the Southeast Regional Section's Master Class. Those who attended the 2005 Class at NCSA can rest assured that the quality and quantity of workshop offerings will be surpassed. No stone has been left unturned by Doug Brown, Master Class Host, in his search to provide a full slate of offerings. Scheduled for September 20 to 22, the 2007 Master Class will be held at NCSA Design and Production Facilities in Winston-Salem, North Carolina.

Preliminary course offerings provide a hint of the opportunities available. Topics include: You Have That Degree-Now What? presented by Michael Devine of Devine Design Group; Bowl Turning, a reprise of Bland Wade's well-attended 2005 workshop; Motion Control I & II, by the wonderful folks at Fisher Theatrical; Ballet Bodice Workshop, by Lynnsey Slanina from Florida School of the Arts; Survey of Structural Design, developed by Henry Grillo from NCSA; Toys for the Paint Shop, by Howard Jones, also from NCSA; Creating a Projection Design Using Photoshop, by Wake Forest University's Jon Christman; Using Apple's Ipad in the Design Classroom, by Dixon Williams of Georgia College and State University, and Blood and Guts by Michael Meyer of NCSA.

Sessions also are planned in Creative Problem Solving, Understanding Media Servers, Accessing to Excel, Power Tool Tune Ups, and Basic CNC Routing for Scenic Applications by Henry Grillo, Eric Rimes, Troy Brizius and Dave Olse, all NCSA faculty.

Interested parties are encouraged to visit the [NCSA Design and Production web page](#) for more information about housing and Master Class registration.

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### Chesapeake Plans Convention, Design Expo

Final preparations are being made for the Chesapeake Regional Section's annual convention and expo being held at Shenandoah University on Saturday, September 15. This year's convention promises to be one of the best. By popular demand, full day workshops in circus-type rigging and VectorWorks computer-aided drafting will be featured.

Approximately 18 vendors will participate on the convention floor, and 18 workshops (approximately one to two hours long) will be presented during the day.

There's still time to put in an application for Design Expo '07, a showcase of designers' work which will be given feedback by industry professionals. For details on the Design Expo 07, contact Andrew Rich, rich@susqu.edu, or download an [application form](#).



For those traveling long distances, there are many motels near by to choose from. Membership and registration may be completed [on-line](#) or at the convention entrance upon arrival. For directions, go to [Shenandoah University's web site](#).

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### New England Plans Barbecue

#### This month:

Southeast  
Chesapeake  
New England  
Desert State  
Midwest

The Annual USITT New England Regional Section Barbecue is quickly approaching. It will again be held at the home of Section Chair Crystal Tiala in West Roxbury, Massachusetts at 1 p.m. September 8. E-mail [tiala@mindspring.com](mailto:tiala@mindspring.com) for directions and to RSVP. Aside from a bit of business, members should plan to have some fun. Free food! It will be a whale of a time.

The Kennedy Center American College Theatre Festival Region I is coming back to Leominster/Fitchburg, Massachusetts January 29 to February 3. The events are not just for students. Come for a day or for the whole time. The USITT NE Regional will begin during the festivities. It is a great central location so plan to come and enjoy. See [www.kcactf1.org](http://www.kcactf1.org) for details.

Make sure to get the latest New England news. Anyone who is not signed up for the USITT New England listserve, go to [www.usittne.org/USITTNEList.html](http://www.usittne.org/USITTNEList.html) for directions. This is one of the few listserve with a low volume of e-mails. You won't want to miss anything!

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### **Desert State Plans Board Retreat**

The Desert State Regional Section's board of directors will hold it's annual board retreat at Northland Pioneer College 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. on Saturday, August 11. The Section is working on a presentation to share with its hosts and others practicing the art outside of the metropolitan areas.

This meeting is the board's working session where it sets the Section's calendar of activities, approves the years budget, and discusses other topics as needed. Contact [jimmiebyrd@msn.com](mailto:jimmiebyrd@msn.com) for information on the planned activities.

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### **Midwest Programming Finishes Strong**

The USITT Midwest Regional Section held its final program of 2006-07 on May 5 on the campus of the University of Illinois at Champaign-Urbana (UIUC). The event had three components, hoping to provide something of interest to everyone attending.

With the fiscal assistance of Holly Monsos and USITT, the Section was able to bring in Jim Greco, right, University of Wisconsin-Madison costume shop head, who conducted a seven-hour, "hands-on" workshop devoted to the design and creation of wigs. Participants were asked to bring any materials they wanted to use; the only *verboten* material was actual hair. The final results were very creative and some quite elaborate.



The other two events were targeted more for technicians interested in rigging principles and automation. Eric and Beth Martell conducted a two-hour demonstration of bridling using the dual tools of shop math and actual measurements. They proved the math actually works through a series of load cells and computer readouts. Demonstrations such as this are part of a program being developed as part of the USITT sponsored Physics of Theatre Project, a joint effort between Millikin University's Physics department and UIUC's Krannert Center for the Performing Arts and Theatre Department.

The last element of the program was the first Midwest Mechanical Design Competition. Organized by Ms. Martell, this segment featured a contest of student designed, fabricated, and operated cannon prototypes that shot tennis balls. There were seven contestants in all. The submissions varied from working mockups to some that were elaborately finished. At the May 5 event, USITT members could watch the competitions for Longest Shot, won by Michael Vila with his booming 165 foot launch, and Most Accurate, won by Matt Stratton whose cannon hit its target eight of 10 shots. (The remaining two shots hit the edge of the target -- so he never missed by much).

Mr. Stratton took home the USITT Midwest Regional Section Best Design Award that included a trophy and \$100, and the Best Aesthetic Design Award for his incredibly accurate and nicely finished cannon. The judges also recognized Nicole Bromley with the Best Proposal trophy. All participants received certificates and t-shirts. Decisions were made by the adjudication team of Dennis Dorn (UW-Madison), Marty Lazarus (Chicago Spotlight), and Ms. Martell (UIUC, Krannert Center). Overall, the event was extremely well organized and lots of fun.

Next season's Midwest Section programming is being planned but will feature events involving makeup, corsets, moving lights, tours, props, and a major blockbuster musical playing in Chicago. This year will also see the Second Annual Midwest Mechanical Design Competition. Keep an eye on [www.usittmidwest.org](http://www.usittmidwest.org) for more information.



Above, Midwest Regional Section Chair Jonathan Darling looks over some of the entries in the section's recent Mechanical Design Competition.

Photos/Dennis Dorn

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## Galveston Island Offers Architectural Delights

*"When cotton was King and Galveston was Queen City of the gulf, prosperous island families built estates that would endure hurricanes, political strife, and the economic recessions."*  
Galveston Historical Foundation.

Little respected for its architectural historic significance, the City of Galveston Island, just a short drive south of Houston, is home to a variety of wonderful 19th century structures. It is an easy drive from the site of the 2008 Annual Conference & Stage Expo based in downtown Houston.

The city takes extreme pride in its period homes, shops, and opera house, perhaps because of the Great Storm of 1900 when a major hurricane literally wiped clean a portion of Galveston four blocks wide and more than a half mile long. Over 6,000 inhabitants perished on the island and devastation and debris were all that were left of more than 3,600 buildings. However, many noteworthy buildings did endure and are awaiting a visit.

The **Bishop's Palace**, built in 1886 for approximately a quarter of a million dollars, is one of the grand survivors. The pale grey and pink Texas granite and red limestone Richardson Romanesque home was constructed by wealthy attorney Walter Gresham and was originally known as Gresham's Castle. Bishop's Palace, renamed after being purchased as the Diocese

The Bishop's Palace on Galveston Island is just one of the many attractive architectural examples to be seen just a short drive from Houston, site of the 2008 USITT Annual Conference & Stage Expo.

Photo/Courtesy The City of Galveston

by **Janet Harreld**  
*Houston Promotions Coordinator*

The Greek revival Menard Mansion, (below) is owned by Ball State University.

Photo/Courtesy Ball State University

of Galveston Bishop's residence (a service it still provides) boasts 11 rare stone and wood fireplace mantels and a magnificent wooden staircase that required 61 craftsmen seven years to complete. The house is an idiot's delight of glorious stained glass windows, intricately carved wood and stone ornamentation, and luxurious Victorian furnishings. The American Institute of Architects has listed the home as one of the 100 most significant buildings in the United States and the Library of Congress has classified Bishop's Palace as one of the 14 most representative Victorian structures in America.

**Ashton Villa**, a marvelous 1859 Italianate mansion, was built by one of Texas' wealthiest men of the mid-19th century, James Moreau Brown, and it set the standard for opulence. The first home constructed of brick in Texas, Ashton Villa was built primarily with slave labor and features 13-inch thick walls to help protect the home from the damp of the Gulf Coast. The house retains much of its original furnishings and the art work of Brown's daughter, Miss Bettie. (If you are fond of ghosts and spirits, it is rumored that Miss Bettie has never left the villa and can be seen on a second floor landing in an appropriately period turquoise gown.)

The Michel **Menard Mansion**, or "The Oaks" as the family named the homestead, was built in 1838 -- a full year before the city was incorporated. An exquisite example of Greek Revival style, the Menard Mansion was actually constructed in Maine and shipped in pieces to Galveston to be placed on a lot well outside of the foul smell and tainted dirt within the growing city's limits. Although not representative of Southern interiors of the time, the house has been furnished with an outstanding collection of Federal and American Empire antiques.

**The Strand** is a unique collection of late 19th century commercial buildings that has been designated a National Historic Landmark District. It was on this street that financial good fortune was displayed in the cast iron-fronted business and retail buildings. While many of the Strand's structures sustained extensive damage in the 1900 Storm, most have returned to their stately charm. Hendley Row, adjoining buildings from 1858 to 1859, are the oldest commercial buildings in Galveston; the 1870 J. S. Brown Hardware Company Building was once home for the largest hardware company south of the Mason Dixon line; and the Rosenberg was the largest dry goods store in Texas in the 1870s. Of note, too, is the difference between the street and the sidewalk levels.

The walks were raised so that ladies could step from their carriages without setting food in the mucky crud of the dirt street. The Strand is now a remarkable collection of unique enterprises including Col. Bubbie's Strand Surplus Senter (property masters and designers must avail themselves of the opportunity to actually visit the dusty, cramped emporium of military accoutrement just for the experience!).

The East End National Historic Landmark District of Galveston features a variety of distinguished and prime examples of 19th century homes of outstanding detail. The Galveston Historic Foundation provides information on several pleasant walking tours through the district and information, albeit somewhat limited, on every address. Several illustrative exteriors can be viewed at [www.pbse.com/lwh/galvestonhomes](http://www.pbse.com/lwh/galvestonhomes). Most of these homes and non-residential buildings are in private hands, so you won't be able to view interiors except for several bed and breakfasts; but the exteriors are more than worth the trip.



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## Stage Expo Exhibitors Offer Programs

**Helen Willard**  
*Stage Expo Sales Manager*

An interesting mix of exhibitor-sponsored programs is scheduled for the 2008 USITT Conference & Stage Expo in Houston, Texas. Here are brief descriptions of some of the sessions to be presented.

### Tuning Your Palette --Lighting, That Is

*Sponsored by Apollo Design Technology, Inc.*

A demonstration and discussion of approaches to selecting color. Learn how to fine-tune choices to the various elements specific to the show. The presentation will be about the point of view of the artist, not the technician.

### Good To Go!

*Sponsored by Clark Transfer, Inc.*  
A panel discussion dealing with design issues, scenic construction methods, and hardware for touring.

### Transformational Makeup from Ancient Origins to Modern Theatre

*Sponsored by Kryolan Corporation*  
From the very beginning of human culture, make-up and masks have been used to transform people and create new identities. As ancient ritual evolved into theater, this art of transformation remained as the way for an actor to present an identity beyond his normal self. Author Christopher Agostino presents the story of this fundamental art in a fascinating lecture illustrated by painted faces from around the world -- from the tribal arts of the Amazon and Africa to the sophisticated faces of the Chinese Opera.

### Wireless Dimming and DMX in Practice

*Sponsored by RC4 Wireless Dimming*  
This panel begins as a lecture, migrating to a question and answer session to steer the content towards the interests of attendees. Four primary subtopics are addressed: principles of digital radio-frequency technology; principles of primary and rechargeable battery technology; a review of lamps, LEDs, motors, and other loads suitable for low-voltage systems; and safety considerations in high-current, low-voltage systems, and in untethered



Stage Expo 2007 was filled with activity and information from those showing products or offering services. For 2008, sessions from exhibitors are already scheduled.

Photo/Tom Thatcher

### Already Booked for Stage Expo 2008

- |  |   |
|--|---|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• A.C. Lighting Inc.</li> <li>• A.C.T Lighting, Inc.</li> <li>• American Harlequin Corporation</li> <li>• Apollo Design Technology, Inc.</li> <li>• Barbizon Lighting Company</li> <li>• Ben Nye Makeup</li> <li>• California Institute of the Arts</li> <li>• Cirque du Soleil</li> <li>• City Theatrical, Inc.</li> <li>• J.R. Clancy, Inc.</li> <li>• Clarice Smith Performing Arts Center</li> <li>• Clark Transfer, Inc.</li> <li>• Clear-Com Communication Systems</li> <li>• d&amp;b audiotechnik</li> <li>• Dazian Fabrics, LLC</li> <li>• Eartec</li> <li>• Electronic Theatre Controls (ETC)</li> <li>• Entertainment Services &amp; Technology Association (ESTA)</li> <li>• Entertainment Technology</li> </ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Norcostco, Inc.</li> <li>• North Carolina School of the Arts</li> <li>• University of Oklahoma</li> <li>• Oregon Shakespeare Festival</li> <li>• Osram Sylvania</li> <li>• The Painter's Journal</li> <li>• Penn State University</li> <li>• Period Corsets</li> <li>• PRG</li> <li>• Production Intercom, Inc.</li> <li>• Protech Theatrical Services, Inc.</li> <li>• RC4 Wireless Dimming</li> <li>• Robert Juliat</li> <li>• Rosco Laboratories, Inc.</li> <li>• Rose Brand Theatrical Fabrics, Fabrications &amp; Supplies</li> <li>• Sapsis Rigging Entertainment Services, Inc.</li> <li>• Sculptural Arts Coating, Inc.</li> <li>• SeaChanger by Ocean Optics</li> <li>• SECOA</li> <li>• Selecon</li> </ul> |
|--|---|

motion-control systems. The focus is on underlying principles and practices common to wireless dimming in general.

**Don't Build It -- Project It**

*Sponsored by Rosco*

The popularity of low cost projection equipment and slides has allowed theatre people at every budget level to integrate projections into scene and lighting designs. This workshop will show some of the more creative projections and offer ideas on how to generate more satisfying results on stage.

There are just a few slots still available for exhibitor sponsored programs. Contact Helen Willard at [hpwillard@aol.com](mailto:hpwillard@aol.com) for more information.

- Feld Entertainment
- Florida State University
- Future Light
- GALA Systems, Inc.
- GAMPRODUCTS, INC.
- H & H Specialties Inc.
- heatshrink.com
- The Hilliard Corporation
- HME®
- Weiss
- IATSE Local 1
- InterAmerica Stage, Inc.
- International Alliance of Theatrical Stage Employees
- Irwin Seating Company
- Kenmark, Inc.
- Kryolan Corporation
- Le Maitre Special Effects Inc.
- LEE Filters
- Lehigh Electric Products Co.
- Leprecon
- Lex Products Corp.
- Lighting & Electronics, Inc.
- Limelight Productions, Inc.
- Live Design Magazine/ LDI Show
- Look Solutions USA, Ltd.
- Lycian Stage Lighting
- Make-Up Designory
- Martin Professional, Inc.
- MDG Fog Generators
- Mehron, Inc.
- Meyer Sound Laboratories, Inc.
- Mongol Global Tour Company, Inc.

- Serapid, Inc.
- Show Distribution Group Inc.
- Smooth-On, Inc.
- Stage Research, Inc.
- Stage Technologies
- Stagecraft Institute of Las Vegas
- StageRight Corporation
- Steeldeck Inc.
- StageLight, Inc.
- Strand Lighting
- Strong Entertainment Lighting
- Syracuse Scenery & Stage Lighting Co., Inc.
- Texas Scenic Company
- Thern Inc.
- James Thomas Engineering
- Turning Star Inc.
- Union Connector Co., Inc.
- United Scenic Artists Local USA 829
- Vari-Lite
- VectorWorks Spotlight by Nemetschek North America
- Vortek, a division of Daktronics
- Walt Disney Entertainment
- Wenger Corporation
- Wybron, Inc.
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- Bill Browning
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- Martha Marking
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2006-2009

- Leon Brauner
- Richard Dunham
- Debra Krajec
- Mike Murphy
- Donna Ruzika
- Bill Teague

2007-2010

- Lea Asbell-Swanger
- Nadine Charlsen
- Michael Mehler
- Mark Shanda
- Sherry Wagner-Henry
- Craig Wolf

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- Clear-Com Communication Systems
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- Creative Stage Lighting Co., Inc.
- Disney Entertainment Productions
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- Entertainment Services & Technology Association (ESTA)
- Entertainment Technology
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- heatshrink.com
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- *Live Design* Magazine/LDI Show
- Martin Professional, Inc.
- Mattel-World Wide Trade Show Services
- MDG Fog Generators
- Meyer Sound Laboratories, Inc.
- Norcostco, Inc
- PRG
- Production Advantage, Inc.
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- AC Power Distribution, Inc.
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- ALPS/Advanced Lighting & Production Services, Inc.
- Altman Lighting, Inc.
- Auerbach-Pollock-Friedlander
- A V Pro, Inc.
- B.N. Productions, Inc.
- Baer Fabrics
- Bandit Lites, Inc.
- Ben Nye Makeup
- Big Apple Lights
- Brawner & Associates LLC
- California Institute of the Arts
- Center Theatre Group
- Checkers Industrial Products Inc.
- Chicago Spotlight, Inc.
- Clarice Smith Performing Arts Center
- Cobalt Studios
- Columbus McKinnon Corp.
- Comfor Tek Seating Inc.
- Cosler Theatre Design
- The Crosby Group, Inc.
- d&b audiotechnik
- Dazian Fabrics, LLC
- Electronics Diversified International, LLC
- Entertainment Lighting Services
- Fisher Theatrical, LLC
- Foy Invenrprises, Inc.
- GALA Systems, Inc.
- Gerriets International Inc.
- Grand Stage Company, Inc.
- Grosh Scenic Rentals
- Haussmann Theaterbedarf GmbH
- The Hilliard Corporation
- Hollywood Lighting Services, Inc.
- I. Weiss
- International Alliance of Theatrical Stage Employees
- Irwin Seating Company
- Johnson Systems Inc.
- Kenmark, Inc.
- Kirkegaard Associates
- KUPO Industrial Corp
- LCS Series (Meyer Sound Laboratories, Inc.)
- Le Maitre Special Effects
- LEE Filters
- Lehigh Electric Products Co.
- Leprecon
- Leviton/NSI/Colortran
- Lex Products Corp.
- Lighting & Electronics, Inc.
- Limelight Productions, Inc.
- Lite-Trol Service Company, Inc.
- Look Solutions USA, Ltd.
- LVH Entertainment Systems
- Lycian Stage Lighting
- The MAGNUM Companies, Ltd.
- Mainstage Theatrical Supply, Inc.
- Make-Up Designory
- Mehron, Inc.
- Musson Theatrical, Inc.
- Mutual Hardware
- Niagara University Theatre
- Niscon Inc.

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- Special Exhibitor Sessions

## For the Record

- Leadership
- Honorary Lifetime Members
- Contributing Members
- Sustaining Members
- August 2007 issue pdf



## Postcard from the USITT 2007 Study Tour

Our thanks to Jack Hilton Cunningham, a member of the USITT Study Tour, for this lovely postcard combining words and images to give a vivid feeling for the Prague Quadrennial, which was part of the tour. To learn more about the Study Tour, click [here](#) for an extensive report from Dick Durst. For a report on the 2007 Prague Quadrennial, click [here](#) for a report from Sandy Bonds. A full-size version of the image can be found by clicking [here](#) or clicking on the image.

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